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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

28 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact with AECASSOWARY/2 in Washington on 20 April 1960.

The meeting, attended by the undersigned, was held in an SR/10 safehouse in Washington. [] joined the group about 1145 hours and participated in the meeting for the remainder of the day.

1. [] presented a brief rundown of our plans regarding Peter POTICHNYJ. [] had informed us that the [] wanted to get Russian-language spotters into Swedish universities.)

AECASSOWARY/2 was informed that a complete processing of the type given to AECASSOWARY/29 had been planned. It was decided that AECASSOWARY/2 would remain in Washington to meet POTICHNYJ, and to introduce him to the Case Officers with an appropriate explanation.

2. AECASSOWARY/29 had complained to AECASSOWARY/2 on the evening of his second day in training in Clandestine Techniques about the low-level assignments he was being asked to fulfill, e.g., five days' surveillance on a char woman in a New York restaurant. [] explained to AECASSOWARY/2 that practical exercise was necessary in preparing AECASSOWARY/29 for the type of assignment we had planned for him. He would have to know how to operate before he could assign similar tasks to others, and it was not unlikely that AECASSOWARY/29 might at some time have to do work of this kind himself. AECASSOWARY/2 was told to convey this to AECASSOWARY/29, in the event he returned with any further complaints. AECASSOWARY/2 said that AECASSOWARY/29 had spoken well of the instructor, stating that the instructor was an intelligent man who knew his business.

3. AECASSOWARY/2 asked to have the following name checked out: Oleksandr SEMENENKO of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. SEMENENKO lived in Rio under the name of Dr. Oleksandr ZMENENKO. He recently immigrated to the United States and is living in New York. He is ca. 61 years of age. He is seeking employment, and AECASSOWARY/2 would be interested in using him on his staff. SEMENENKO is an eastern Ukrainian from Kharkov, where he was Mayor during the Nazi occupation of the Ukraine. (This aspect of his past must be thoroughly examined.) Previous to that he was a lawyer. SEMENENKO speaks Ukrainian, Russian, French, German, and Portuguese.

4. [] joined the meeting later the same morning to talk to AECASSOWARY/2 about Stephen OLYNYK, who has been rejected for a trip to the USSR under the student exchange program. We have in mind now a thirty-day student-tourist trip to Kiev and Lvov. [] explained to AECASSOWARY/2

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that it would be better not to reveal United States Government interest to OLYNYK at this time. If he were to go to the Ukraine, the KGB may try to recruit him, since they are probably aware of his contact with his parents during his visit to the UkSSR in 1959. [] told AECASSOWARY/2 that he had given OLYNYK the names of the Ford and Carnegie Foundation and told him he might get some money from them. Since Ford and Carnegie will not be interested, Steve will say he is sorry but that we could not intercede on OLYNYK's behalf without revealing undue interest in him. It is expected that OLYNYK will then go to AECASSOWARY/2 and report that the United States Government was not able to do anything for him. AECASSOWARY/2 will be given the names of two or three foundations which he can recommend to OLYNYK. One of these foundations (Benton) will accept him, and he will presumably be willing to take an A/1 briefing. Under this arrangement, if the KGB does make an approach and if OLYNYK is pressured, he can only say that he has nothing to do with the United States Government. [] said he felt August would be a good month for OLYNYK to go to the USSR for several reasons. AECASSOWARY/2 stated that he agreed with the plan in general, but he felt August was not the best month because if OLYNYK visits the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, all the professors will be away on vacation.

OLYNYK was in New York during the Easter holidays. He visited with A/2 for several hours and seemed very discouraged because "the State Department" could not do anything for him. A/2 explained to him that there were many considerations, such as security, and it would be difficult to determine just why he was not accepted.

[] told A/2 that he had discussed the plan for OLYNYK with A/15 and that A/15 had thought it good.

5. AECASSOWARY/2 again brought up Konstantin ZELENKO's desire to go to the USSR or Poland. As mentioned in the previous contact report, Z. would prefer to go in 1961 after he has taken his PhD. AECASSOWARY/2, however, would rather have him go this year, because he feels that the Soviets are becoming increasingly interested in him. The longer ZELENKO's trip to the USSR is postponed, the more time the Soviets will have to collect information on him. When he talked with KORNEICHUK in London, the latter invited Z. to the Ukraine. ZELENKO would be able to talk intelligently with Soviet Ukrainians in higher positions. AECASSOWARY/2 stated he has discussed ZELENKO with A/29, who agreed it would be a good idea to send Z. to the UkSSR in June or July of this year. If it is decided to send him, it will be necessary for A/29 to meet with ZELENKO to brief him on requirements and legal travel opportunities. [] said we would probably have no objections to A/29's going to London to meet with Z., if A/29 were by that time serving in Europe. All A/2's contacts with Z. are made via correspondence between Z. and A/29. AECASSOWARY/2 will keep us informed of any further developments.

6. Regarding plans for A/29's location and Case Officer contact in Europe: [] stated that we have studied the situation and have decided that Frankfurt would be the best location because of our facilities there. However, if in another year or two it is decided that Frankfurt is not the best place for A/29, then we might consider another location.

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7. Roman MACK (MAK), 500 West 111th Street, Apartment 1a., former UPA man now studying at Columbia, has been in contact with Fnu SKOK, a Soviet exchange student at Columbia. They met again on Saturday, 16 April. SKOK told MACK he was a scholar and was not interested in maintaining contacts with him but said that he has a friend who he would like MACK to meet. SKOK suggested that he and his friend, a Mr. *GORPAN from the United Nations, meet with Mack in Mack's room on Sunday, 24 April. SKOK stated that he and GORPAN were friends in school in Kiev. MACK asked SKOK whether he knew Fnu NESSEN (phonetic spelling), Soviet exchange student at the University of Chicago who worked as a guide at the Soviet exhibit at the New York Colosseum. SKOK said he did know NESSEN and that he was now back in Kiev. AECASSOWARY/2 stated that he does not consider MACK a very intelligent man and that he would not like to expose any of the AECASSOWARIES to him for contact purposes. Therefore, he told MACK to use his own judgment on whether to keep the appointment but that he would be interested in hearing what transpired. MACK told A/2 he believes he is under surveillance, probably by the FBI.

To earn spending money MACK repairs violins. He was so employed at Hunter College several months ago and after he left, there were two men at Hunter who came to ask questions about him. His papers also were checked by the FBI (sic) when he came to Columbia University. He told A/2 he feels the FBI may have become interested in him because of his contacts with SKOK, whom he telephoned several times from his home. MACK has told SKOK that he is from Canada and plays the role of not being altogether sold on the democratic form of government. MACK lives in an apartment with a Cornelius COLDABAKU, a Rumanian from the Soviet Union (sic). It was suggested that A/2 should probably tell MACK to report the circumstances of his contacts with SKOK to the FBI. (A subsequent check at Headquarters confirmed this as the proper course of action, and the matter was so handled.)

8. Stefania PRYSHLAK of Buffalo, New York is leaving for Breslau on Saturday, 23 April, via KIM. The Polish Government refused to issue an exit visa to her brother YURKO (Jerzy SZYNAROWSKI []), and his mother does not want to come to the United States without him. The mother is very ill with cancer of the lung, so Stefania is going there to visit with them for one month. AECASSOWARY/2 plans to talk with Stefania at Idlewild before her departure. YURKO is a former UPA member who was repatriated to Poland in March 1959 from a Soviet prison camp. He is in correspondence with Stefania, who has made some of his letters available to A/2. Stephen OLYNYK had contact with YURKO in Poland in 1959 and carried several letters back from which A/2 obtained information of interest to his organization and information regarding former underground personalities. YURKO claims to have "information of interest" to A/2, but to date his letters have revealed only unsubstantiated information of questionable CE interest.

*A check with SR/CE reveals that Vsevolod Ivanovich GAPON, d.o.b. 9 May 1930 is a permanent representative of the UkSSR at the United Nations. His wife, Miroslava Petrovna is employed at TASS News Agency. They reside at 251 West 98th Street.

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9. In May of this year, Joe ELLEN's wife is going to visit the UkSSR with two or three other women from Canada. Joe ELLEN is a Canadian of Ukrainian extraction who has been a member of the Progressives in Canada for many years. He became disaffected after a visit to the Ukraine. He has been keeping A/2 informed via the A/1 contact in Canada of Ukrainians who are returning or visiting the UkSSR. Joe's wife and her friends are going to visit in their home villages. His wife is in some way related to the A/1 contact in Canada but A/2 was not sure what the relationship was. ☐ suggested that A/2 handle this particular case independently of us. *New about my E*

10. Mykhailo OLYNYK: There has been no correspondence from Mykhailo since A/2's last letter to him inquiring whether he liked the razors sent to him in the trunk taken back by a returnee from Canada. AECASSOWARY/2 said he had a copy of the message which he sent and would make it available to us.

11. Alexander GEREGA, the former UPA man now in Chicago who corresponds with his family in Lvov (see contact report dated 29 March), mailed a letter to his parents inquiring whether there had been any further contact from his sister and brother-in-law. He has had no reply to date, but has promised to keep A/2 informed of any new developments.

12. Mykola CHUBATYJ visited with A/2 several days ago. He definitely is going to the Congress of Historians, and A/2 believes his trip is being financed by the American Committee. AECASSOWARY/2 said he knew this to be true because M. TERPAK of the American Committee told him that the Committee was financing two Ukrainians, CHUBATYJ, and another Ukrainian from Munich. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) at its last meeting agreed to contribute \$1,000 to an eligible Ukrainian historian. There were no names mentioned. AECASSOWARY/2 believes that if Alexandr OHLOBLYN agrees to go, he is certain to receive the UCCA grant. PELENSKY has written two letters to OHLOBLYN inquiring whether or not he intends to attend the Congress, but has received no reply. AECASSOWARY/2 stated that OHLOBLYN is well known in the UkSSR. AECASSOWARY/2 feels sure Soviet Ukrainians would be very eager to discuss OHLOBLYN's new book with him.

13. AECASSOWARY/2 sent \$400 to Yaroslav PELENSKY (at Notre Dame) on 19 April to help pay his ticket to Europe. AECASSOWARY/2 agreed to pay approximately \$500 of PELENSKY's European expenses this summer in return for PELENSKY's services in Stockholm and elsewhere. It is expected that there will be other emigre Ukrainians at the Congress of Historians with whom PELENSKY will work on Soviets at the Congress.

14. Regarding Fnu MOTA of Toronto, Canada, who is going to the USSR this summer, A/2 stated that he has no further information than that reported during his previous contact with the undersigned.

15. Since our last meeting with A/2, he has had no further word from Bohdan HALAYCHUK on his plans for the International Law Biennial in Hamburg.

16. According to A/2, the man who returned to the Ukraine from Canada and took the trunk from A/2 to M. OLYNYK, has since sent word back to his friends in Canada that his sister ordered him out of her house, along with his 40 trunks, because he was a member of the Ukrainian Progressives in Canada. Two other Ukrainian Progressives from Canada who visited in the Ukraine were beaten up by Ukrainians in villages where they visited.

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17. AECASSOWARY/2 recommended a candidate for the student exchange program or for a REDSKIN/In assignment. He is Bohdan STUSYK, 244 East 7th Street, New York, Telephone: ORegon 7-9363. STUSYK completed Russian language studies at Columbia this year; is single, apolitical, 32 to 33 years of age and a Korean War Veteran. He occasionally works at the Lys Mykyta bar in the Ukrainian National Home in New York. *(Name traces asked for.)*

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